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Review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations

Draft resolution submitted by the Chairman following informal consultations

Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the inspection of programme and administrative management of the subregional offices of the Economic Commission for Africa

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 48/218 B of 29 July 1994, 54/244 of 23 December 1999 and 59/272 of 23 December 2004,

Having considered the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the inspection of programme and administrative management of the subregional offices of the Economic Commission for Africa,[1]

1. *Recalls* its resolution 59/287 of 13 April 2005 and its decision that the development of Africa shall be among the priorities of the Organization for the biennium 2006-2007;

2. *Recalls also* its resolutions 57/2 of 16 September 2002 and 57/7 of 4 November 2002, and stresses the important role played by the Economic Commission for Africa in coordinating the activities of the United Nations system at the regional level in support of the New Partnership for Africa's Development;

3. *Takes note* of the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the inspection of programme and administrative management of the subregional offices of the Economic Commission for Africa,[1] and welcomes the initial steps that the Commission has taken to implement the recommendations of the Office;

4. *Urges* the full and expeditious implementation of the recommendations of the Office of Internal Oversight Services, and requests the Secretary-General to

[1] A/60/120.

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support the efforts of the Economic Commission for Africa and its subregional offices to implement the recommendations of the Office;

5. *Urges also*, in particular, the appropriate integration of the subregional offices into the strategy for the Economic Commission for Africa to ensure increased coordination and the most effective management of resources and implementation of mandates;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that the information and communications technology capacity and strategy of the Economic Commission for Africa and its subregional offices are fully integrated with the information and communications technology strategy of the Organization and that it is used to its full capacity to disseminate information by electronic means;

7. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to intensify his efforts to fill vacancies in the subregional offices, inter alia, by recruiting staff with the appropriate operational skills and expertise that match the development priorities of the respective subregions;

8. *Takes note with concern* of the finding that the subregional offices of the Economic Commission for Africa have a restricted ability to act as the operational arm of the Commission throughout the countries of their respective subregions owing to the lack of adequate resources for core functions, the insufficient level of guidance and support from the headquarters of the Commission and the lack of a clear understanding as to the role of the subregional offices;

9. *Stresses* the important contribution that the Economic Commission for Africa and its subregional offices are making towards supporting the efforts of the regional economic communities of Africa to implement the priorities and objectives of the New Partnership for Africa's Development, and recognizes the need to strengthen the subregional offices;

10. *Requests* the Secretary-General to develop separate subprogrammes for the subregional offices of the Economic Commission for Africa;

11. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to enhance interaction between the regional advisers and subregional offices of the Economic Commission for Africa to ensure a closer link with subregional needs;

12. *Further requests* the Secretary-General to present to the sixty-first session of the General Assembly a comprehensive plan of action to strengthen the subregional offices, based on the recommendations of the Office of Internal Oversight Services, with timelines and clear lines of managerial accountability and, in the context of the action plan, to ensure that adequate resources are provided to the Economic Commission for Africa and its subregional offices to continue its support for the New Partnership for Africa's Development and the regional economic communities for Africa, as well as to ensure the full implementation of the recommendations of the Office of Internal Oversight Services.